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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7858

BILL NUMBER: HB 1800

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 26, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Early Education Programs.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Porter

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: CR Adopted - 1st House

FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: *Full-day Kindergarten:* This bill requires all school corporations to offer full-day kindergarten beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.

Preschool: The bill requires preschool programs to be coordinated with a Step Ahead program. The bill also requires the Division of Professional Standards to establish preschool teacher training and certification standards.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Preschool:* The bill requires preschool pilot programs to be located in a rural or urban area and have a high concentration of students eligible for the national free or reduced lunch program. The bill could target future pilot programs to the areas of most at risk students. The Department of Education does not currently have any preschool pilot programs funded with state money.

The Department of Education could have increase cost associated with the establishment of preschool teacher training and certification standards. The standards would be development with the current budget for the Professional Standards Division's appropriation

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Full-day Kindergarten:* The bill requires schools to offer a full-day kindergarten program starting with the 2007-2008 school year. Parents may choose to send their children to either a half-day of full-day program, or not at all.

Local schools can currently offer either full-day, half-day, or a combination program for kindergarten. The Department of Education conducted a survey of schools concerning kindergarten programs for the 2006-2007 school year. There were 75,407 kindergarten students, 45,370 of the students attended a half-day program and 30,028 students attended a full-day program.

The additional costs of school would depend on the number of students selecting a full-day program, the number of additional teachers needed, the average salary paid to the additional teachers, transportation cost, and possible additional classrooms that might be needed. The additional annual cost could range between \$135 M and \$285 M depending on the various factors mentioned above.

The current funding for full-day kindergarten comes from the state, federal government, local schools, and parents. The bill does not provide a revenue source for the additional expenditures so schools would have to fund the program with the existing revenue stream.

Title I dollars are currently used for full-day kindergarten since the program is supplemental to the state required programs. Title I dollars would probably not be available for full-day kindergarten programs when the program is required to be available for all students. The Title I dollars could be used for other supplemental programs by the corporation.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Preschool: See Explanation of State Expenditures.*

State Agencies Affected: Department of Education.

Local Agencies Affected: Local Schools.

Information Sources: Jeff Zaring, Department of Education 232-6622.

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